Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11166 202031Z

71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /152 W ----- 018996

R 201517Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4351 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV AMEMBASSY AMMAN CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PBOR, PFOR

DIA

SUBJECT: SYRIAN/ISRAELI AIR CLASH SEPTEMBER 13

DAMASCUS US INTERESTS CHIEF CARDILLI GAVE US SEPTEMBER 19 FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE SYRIAN VERSION SYRIAN/ISRAELI AIR CLASH SEPTEMBER 13. HE EXPLAINED THAT SEVERAL DAYS AGO DEPUTY FONMIN ZAKHARIA BRIEFED DIPLOMATIC CORP IN TWO GROUPS; FIRST, WESTERN DIPLOMATIC AND SECOND, DIPLOMATIC OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES. IN BRIEFING ZAKHARIA STRONGLY ACCUSED US OF BEING BEHIND ISRAELI ACTION. AND ACCORDING TO CARDILLI. SAME THEME PLAYED UP IN SYRIAN PRESS. AS TO AIR CRASH ITSELF, ZAKHARIA MAINTAINED ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE PLANES ENTERED SYRIA AFTER FLYING ACROSS LEBANESE TERRITORY. ISRAELIS FLEW AS FAR AS HOMS AND HAMA WHERE THEY BROKE SONIC BARRIER AT LEAST ONCE. AT THAT POINT THEY WERE INTERCEPTED BY SYRIAN PLANES WHICH WHILE PURSUING THEM FLEW INTO TRAP SET BY ISRAELIS AND THE FIGHT WAS ON. ZAKHARIA MAIN-TAINED FIVE ISRAELI PLANES WERE DOWNED AND ADMITTED SYRIANS LOST EIGHT. HE CLAIMED THERE WERE TOTAL OF 100 PLANES INVOLVED IN CLASH. HOUGHTON

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 11166 202031Z

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TAGS: PBOR, PFOR

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